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SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is it the practice to allow village munsifs to take contracts from Government? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" It is not generally the case. But, I am prepared to go into this matter and inform the hon. Member."

Steel tyres for bullock carts.

* 66 *Q.*—SRI K. NATARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that single bullock carts for hire in Tanjore city have not been able to secure steel cart tyres for over six years past ; and

(*b*) whether representations have been received from such cartmen's organization and what arrangements have been made to meet their requirements?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) Supplies of single bullock cart tyres for Tanjore were made during the several quarters commencing from period III/1944 (July to September). So far Tanjore has received 77 tons of this material and 35 tons have been allotted for the current quarter.

" (*b*) A representation was recently received by the Government from Tanjore Cartmen's Union that they were not able to secure cart tyres for over four years. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to take necessary action on the representation."

Prohibition scheme in the Province.

* 67 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to place on the table of the House the scheme to enforce Prohibition including the provision of counter attractions and the staff provided for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" A note[a] on the scheme to enforce Prohibition including the provision of counter attractions and the staff provided for the same is placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have issued orders prohibiting the tapping of sweet toddy? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Yes, only in certain cases but not in all cases. There are districts in which tapping of sweet toddy was prohibited. In Salem and Coimbatore, it was allowed under special conditions, viz., it was allowed in the case of organized co-operative societies. Now so far as tapping sweet toddy from coconut trees is concerned, it is prohibited throughout but it is not so in the case of palmyras and dates provided it is done by organized co-operative societies."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 46—48 infra.

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are there no co-operative societies organized in the Ceded Districts? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" They are being formed there."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it a fact that the staff employed in the Ceded Districts is not sufficient to cope up with the prohibition offences? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Well, there are certain cases of illicit distillation and we are considering how best to improve the efficiency and strength of the staff. It is necessary to recruit fresh men and they have to be trained, so that the number of prohibition staff may be increased."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know why the tapping of sweet toddy is prohibited especially in view of the fact that jaggery can be made from sweet toddy and I think that is the common practice in the mufassal? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" The main idea is to see that this practice is not abused. It is likely to be abused. As a matter of fact, last time in 1937, this was allowed in Salem, at first permits were given for tapping sweet toddy for preparation of jaggery as well as for drinking the concession was abused and then the practice had to be put an end to. Even this year in the beginning we did not contemplate to prohibit it but recently an investigation has been made as to whether it should be allowed or not. The reports received from collectors and prohibition officers were to the effect that sweet toddy if allowed for the manufacturing of jaggery was also fermented and used for drinking purposes and so, Government decided that so far as coconut tapping is concerned, it should not be allowed. In regard to palmyra and date trees, it will be allowed under certain conditions, viz., if co-operative societies are organized and if they apply for permission, it will be allowed."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Do Government think that prohibition is the only method of preventing this abuse ? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Unless, we employ a large staff, it is not worthwhile allowing tapping, particularly in view of the high prices of coconuts. It will not affect the owners much. So, Government considered that so far as coconut trees are concerned, it should be absolutely prohibited."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether it will not result in a loss to owners of coconut trees if such tapping is prohibited ? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" It may not. After all, they may get more income by selling coconuts, the price of which is fairly high."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it contended that if the coconut trees are not tapped, they will yield a larger income? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I do not know whether it will yield a larger income, but there will be some income. Apart from that, that is not the only consideration. The main consideration is to enforce prohibition."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You will get juice from the coconut."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the reply of the Hon. Minister that permission will be given to co-operative societies for tapping these trees, does Government think that all these hereditary tappers will go out of employment? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Sir, almost every measure of Government really involves some sacrifice on the part of somebody or other. In this case, Government are trying to find alternative employment for these people. After all, this should not be the main consideration for the Government but Government has to consider that it is likely to be abused if tapping of the trees is allowed."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Why should co-operative societies be given preference over these hereditary tappers. Is this the panacea for all evils? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Co-operative societies are organized for the purpose of helping men to manufacture jaggery under some special restrictions."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" To throw these people out of employment probably."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what steps have been taken to form co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" A number of co-operative societies are being formed in some of the districts."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid we are going away from the main question."

Mr. Manicka Naicker, Secretary of the Chingleput District Board.

* 68 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Manicka Naicker, who was Secretary of the Chingleput District Board till recently, has not had any qualifications to occupy the post of the Secretary;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that exemption had to be given to him to hold even the post of a clerk of the District Board;

(*c*) the reason why he was chosen for the secretary's post when there were more qualified and senior men in the district board service;